

Message Text

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21/45

ACTION A-01

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FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO USNATO NIACT IMMEDIATE

USNMR SHAPE NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

CINCUER PRIORITY

CINCUSAREUR PRIORITY

CINCUSAFE PRIORITY

CINCNAVEUR PRIORITY (PLEASE PASS)

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 717

SECDEF

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 622

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (ADDITION OF TAGS AND DOWNGRADING INSTRUCTS)

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP

FROM USNATO DEFAD LEGERE. USNATO FOR ACTING DEFAD CLINARD. USNMR
SHAPE FOR GENERAL SEITH. CINCEUR FOR GENERAL EADE. SECDEF
FOR ASD ELLSWORTH. DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO AMBASSADOR BRUCE.
SUBJECT: EARLY INTERESTS OF CODEL SCHWEIKER.

1. SESSIONS OF CODEL SCHWEIKER AT US MISSION BERLIN 29 MARCH
STRAYED SUFFICIENTLY FROM LOCAL CONTEXT TO PROVIDE A FEW
INDICATORS OF LIKELY PRIME QUESTION AREAS THAT CODEL MAY WANT
TO PURSUE AT REMAINING ITINERARY STOPS.

2. FIRST AREA IS CONVENTIONAL AND NUCLEAR NATO-WARSAW PACT
MILITARY BALANCES, WITH EMPHASES ON EFFECT THAT
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WOULD BE PRODUCED BY US TROOP WITHDRAWALS OF UP TO 100,000 MEN.

NUMBERS SOUGHT ARE IN TERMS OF BOTH MANPOWER TOTALS AND DIVISIONS AND EQUIVALENT AIR UNITS, AS APPLIED TO SOVIETS, NON-SOVIET WARSAW PACT, US, AND NON-US NATO. SOME OF THIS FOCUS SEEMS TO DERIVE FROM WHAT I SENSE AS AN INCLINATION TO CHALLENGE THE FEASIBILITY OF A SATISFACTORY CONVENTIONAL BALANCE AND OPTION ANYHOW.

3. SECOND AREA IS BURDEN SHARING EFFORTS OF NATO EUROPEAN ALLIES. FAVORABLE IMPACT ON CODEL OF RATIO BETWEEN HUGE GERMAN CONTRIBUTION TO SUPPORT OF US FORCES IN BERLIN AND MODEST DIRECT US OPERATING COSTS IN BERLIN (RATIO IS ALMOST 99 TO 1) COULD BACKFIRE DURING REMAINING CODEL STOPS ESPECIALLY IN BRUSSELS AND FRG. CODEL SEEMS SURE TO COME DOWN HARD ON GENERAL SUBJECT OF BURDEN SHARING AND SPECIFIC SUBJECT OF CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE OFFSET ARRANGEMENTS.

4. THIRD AREA IS INCREASING USE OF LOCAL CIVILIAN NATIONALS IN SUPPORT OF US FORCES. THIS APPARENTLY HAS TWO ASPECTS: (A) CODEL CONCERN OVER ADVERSE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS EFFECTS AND (B) SCATTERED CODEL SUSPICION THAT SOMEHOW IT BREAKS THE RULES OF THE TAIL-TO-TEETH CONVERSION GAME.

5. MY OWN ROUGH INITIAL CONCLUSIONS FROM THE SKETCHY EVIDENCE OF THIS FIRST CODEL SCHWEIKER DAY IN BERLIN ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. IT WILL BE WELL TO STRESS FRANKLY, STRONGLY, AND OFTEN THAT US FORCES ARE NOT IN EUROPE TO HELP DEFEND EUROPEANS, BUT TO PROMOTE THE NATIONAL SELF-INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES BY DEFENDING AS FAR AWAY FROM HOME AS POSSIBLE.

B. IT WILL BE WELL TO CITE EVIDENCE THAT THE EUROPEAN ALLIES ARE ON THE WHOLE DOING THEIR PART, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME ADMITTING THAT THEY CAN DO BETTER AND STRESSING THAT WE ARE EXTENDING OURSELVES TO GET THEM TO DO SO.

C. IT WILL BE WELL TO AVOID DEPLORING NATO'S CONVENTIONAL CAPABILITY COMPARED TO THAT OF THE WARSAW PACT AND TO AVOID SUGGESTING THAT SURPRISE AGGRESSION AFTER MINIMAL WARNING IS LIKELY IN ITSELF AND LIKELY TO COMPEL EARLY RECOURSE TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS. SUCH A LINE IS IN THE FIRST PLACE OF COURSE NOT CONSISTANT WITH WHAT THE UNITED STATES IS PROMOTING WITHIN NATO POLICY COUNCILS, BUT IN THE SECOND PLACE IT WOULD DOVETAIL NICELY INTO THE CONSTRUCTION OF TROOP WITHDRAWAL RATIONALE THAT WOULD NOT HAVE TO REST ON MONEY-SAVING GROUNDS ALONE BECAUSE, SO IT GOES, IF IT IS TRUE THAT WE DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH FORCES FOR A SATISFACTORY CONVENTIONAL DEFENSE, IT IS CERTAINLY TRUE THAT WE HAVE FAR TOO MANY FOR TRIPWIRE REQUIREMENTS, SO LET'S CUT HEAVILY.

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THIS MAY NOT BE VERY ELEGANTLY LOGICAL, BUT IT COULD PROVIDE A SUFFICIENT HANDLE FOR THE PURPOSES OF THOSE SEEKING ONE.

6. THIS IS A CORRECTED TEXT OF PREVIOUSLY SENT MESSAGE. GEORGE

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NNN

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